

## SOME NEW BOOKS.

Under the dreadful title "Froudely" (Philadelphia: Gobie & Co.) the late J. J. Thomas dealt with what he called "West Indian Fables" by James Anthony Froude. The book, in fact, was intended as an answer to Mr. Froude's statements about the West Indies in "The Bow of Ulysses," and the author, a colored man, naturally and properly stood up for his race. There is no reason for accepting his ideas since Mr. Froude, in writing as he did, was moved by any deep and dark ulterior purpose. He probably reached the conclusion that the colonies were not advanced enough for self-government, and he expressed that opinion. Mr. Thomas thought differently, and he has been able to show that the crown colony system has in the past been marked by abuses; but he has not, after all, succeeded in refuting Mr. Froude with any approach to completeness. His style is not interesting, while the very superficial character of his knowledge of the negro race in the United States suggests a doubt as to other parts of his argument, which it is easy to test.

"Florida Days," by Margaret Deland, illustrated by Louis K. Haslow (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.), is a handsome example of bookmaking, but owes far more to the artist and publishers than to the author of the text, which is thin, mealy and unsatisfactory to such a degree that three-fourths of the alleged description would apply quite as well to half a dozen other localities as to Florida. The illustrations are pleasant and good. The text is dreamy, picturesque, sometimes rather poetical, rather too full of commonplace thoughts worked over, and, generally speaking, perfunctory. The climate might be thought to have so affected the author as to impress her with what she says in the prevailing sensation there—namely that scarcely anything is "worth while."

Mr. George A. Smith has compiled a "Compendium and Concordance of Shakespeare" (Philadelphia: Gobie & Co.) in a neat and handy volume. The work consists of three divisions. The first comprises descriptions of each play separately, together with fairly executed critical sketches. A brief historical notice is appended, and there are short critical notes on the characters, taken usually from the most eminent commentators. The second division is occupied with the concordance, which, while not to be compared with that of Mrs. Cowden Clarke, is perhaps full enough for everyday uses. The third division consists of an Index of Characters, a novel feature in books of this kind, and calculated to be no less serviceable than the compendium and concordance. Of course it must be understood that the uses of such a book are almost exclusively popular, Shakespearean students having to look elsewhere for their bibles. For the purpose it appears to have been intended to meet, however, the present work is probably sufficient. The use of catchwords in the concordance may be noted especially as facilitating research.

In his "Days with Industrials" (Scribner & Welch) Dr. Alexander H. Jepp has collected a great deal of curious and interesting information about the most various matters, such as quinine, rice, pearls, amber, common salt, ale and stout, petroleum, electric telegraphs, railway whistles, bedsteads, knives and forks, diamonds, and postage stamps. Much of the information is recondite, and little of it can be said to be the property of "every schoolboy." The chapters on diamonds and petroleum will be found particularly interesting, but the whole of the volume will well repay perusal.

"Belief," by George Leonard Chaney (Boston: Roberts Brothers), is an attempt to set forth the formulated creed of the line of advanced thought which seeks to reconcile the old and the new in religion and science. The views of Mr. Chaney would be regarded as heterodox by one class of thinkers and perhaps as too conservative by another. His definitions, especially where he encounters dogmatic theology, are apt to be considered exceedingly broad, though there can be no doubt that he represents a distinct current of modern speculation. Optimism and the substitution of Love for Judgment, may be said to characterize this interesting and thoughtful volume.

Charles E. Merrill & Co. issue as a textbook "La France" by A. De Rougemont. It is a succinct account of France, the French people, history, literature, etc., and is arranged with intelligent method for the use of schools and colleges.

Mr. Thomas J. Morgan, principal of the Rhode Island State Normal School, has written a volume of "Studies in Pedagogy" (Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co.), in which the whole ground of education is gone over carefully, and the fruits of a long experience in teaching are set forth in a clear and interesting way. Dr. Morgan takes ground in defense of school examinations, and claims that they are not open to the objections lately urged against competitive examinations in England. Some readers may think that he does not sufficiently consider the evils which are chargeable to the whole examination system, and one of the most serious of which is the tendency to fix a higher standard of efficiency than is at all warranted by the character of the teaching upon which the results of the whole course must depend. The "Studies" will be found full of suggestive ideas.

A. C. Armstrong & Son publish "Burns' Holograph Manuscripts in the Kilmarnock Monument Museum, with Notes," compiled and edited by David Smeddon. All lovers of Burns will feel an interest in these reproductions, which, as the editor remarks, "are not submitted to the public as the best renderings of the text in existence, but simply as authentic specimens under the poet's own signature, and for that reason, of the greatest value for purposes of study and criticism." As usual in such cases the changes made by Burns in his verses are frequently of a character to be regarded as unfortunate. The sober second thought is not generally best, in the case of poetry.

Mosses White & Allen send us another oblong portfolio of verses and drawings with the title "Off the Weatherbow on Life's Voyage." This is a collection of verses by various authors, selected and illustrated by Elizabeth N. Little. As the subtitle implies, these poems are more or less in the nature of moralizing, but the artist shows no didactic purpose in her drawings, which are simply wrought studies of seashore subjects, often chosen with much discretion. There is the usual sprinkling of corals, seaweed, shells and other appendages, and we regret to observe that there is also a definite lettering of initials, which prevails probably from a vague idea that it represents the "novel" and consequently the "artistic." But the merely novel is by no means the artistic, and the artistic cannot properly be called the novel. The first purpose of type is to be read, and these letters are as foreign to the eyes as they are tasteless.

Mr. W. H. Benton announces "The Salom of 1889," in continuation of the series begun by M. Ludovic Baschet in 1880. The text is to be by M. Paul Manis, and there will be 1000 photographs. There will be a limited edition printed upon Holland paper with uncut edges and an ordinary edition on thick yellow paper.

Messrs. Cassell & Co. publish Tennyson's "Song of the Brook" in a thin oblong volume with a generous accompaniment of illustrations by Mr. Wedworth Wadsworth. The artist has furnished a full-page drawing for one line of each verse, together with minor studies and initial letters. Whether the poem gains from those particular forms of elucidation, and whether the individual reader would not prefer to trust his own imagination or memories, must be largely a matter of opinion. Mr. Wadsworth's drawings show the obviously picturesque on a small scale expressed in a manner which is not distinguished by special force or freshness. It might be questioned whether the presentation of the artist's name has been much in the artist's mind. The cover bears the title in tinted letters and illustrative designs.

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